

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER AND THE DITTONS.
TWENTY SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF
THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST. 1920.



URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER AND THE DETTONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of district	5987 acres
Rateable value	£168357
Estimated produce of 1d rate	£703
Population, Census 1911	12518
Estimated to middle of 1920	14050
Number of inhabited houses 1911	2753
Average no. of persons per house	4.5
Birth rate per 1000 living	21.16
Average for three previous years	14.6'
Death rate per 1000 living	8.4
Average for three previous years	12.1
Infant mortality per 1000 births	26.9
Average for three previous years	74.25
Death rate from Epidemic disease	0.2
Average for three previous years	0.36
No of deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms)	12
Death rate from Tuberculosis per 1000 living	0.8
No of deaths from cancer	29
Death rate from Cancer per 1000 living	2.06

Thames Ditton,
Surrey,
May 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Esher and the Dittons.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my twenty sixth annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year ended Dec 31st 1920.

At the census in 1911 the population was returned at 12518, and it is estimated by the Registrar General to be 14030 at the middle of 1920.

The district is about 12 miles from London and is situated on the south bank of the Thames, which forms its boundary on the north east. It covers an area of 5978 acres, and includes the villages of Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Esher and Claygate.

The west boundary is formed by the rivers Mole and Ember. The eastern boundary is that of the Urban district of Surbiton, and the southern that of the parishes of Oxshott and Cobham. It is bounded on the North by the Thames.

The lower part of the district includes Thames Ditton and parts of Long Ditton and Esher, the lowest level being 22 ft above Ordnance datum. The subsoil of this part is gravel overlying London clay. The remainder of Long Ditton, and the whole of Claygate, are on higher levels and on London clay, while the highest part is in Esher, where the lower Bagshot sands appear, resting on London clay. This part is about 160 ft above Ordnance datum.

The district is well supplied with open spaces. In Thames Ditton there are three commons, one small one known as Giggs Hill, a larger one at Weston Green, and a still larger one on the south side of the Portsmouth Road, known as Little Worth Common. The Council has recently purchased the common rights, thus assuring the use and benefits of these open spaces to the district for all time.

There is a Recreation ground in Long Ditton which is under the Council's control. A part of the Surbiton Recreation Ground is also in this parish.

There are two commons in Esher, one adjoining the Portsmouth Road, and the other lying opposite the hamlet of West End.

The District is largely a residential one and contains many good class residences. A large part of the population is employed in London or its outskirts, but there is necessarily cottage property, occupied by employees of the gentry and the various works in the district.

In Thames Ditton there are factories for the manufacture of light motor cars, and also a bronze foundry. Only a portion of those employed at these factories are resident in the district. The Royal Mills at Esher are used as a factory where bookbinding is carried on.

There are large pumping stations and filter beds belonging to the Metropolitan Water Board in Long Ditton, and where many men who reside there and in Surbiton are employed. The chief industry in Claygate is that of brickmaking. None of these occupations have been found to have any bad effects on the health of the workers.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Estimated population of the district at the middle of 1920 is 14030

The number of births registered was 287 or a rate of 21.6 per 1000 living. This is a considerable increase over that of the previous year which was 13.7, a difference of 7.46.

The deaths registered numbered 119 or a rate of 8.4 per 1000 living.

Eight deaths occurred among children under the age of 1 yr or a rate of 26.9 per 1000 births registered.

There were no deaths of illegitimate children.

No children under the age of 2 yrs died from diarrhoea

Three deaths were due to diphtheria. There were no deaths from any other infectious disease, so that the rate from this class of illness was 0.2 per 1000.

One death was registered as being due to Influenza.

There were 12 deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) or a rate of 0.8 per 1000.

29 deaths were due to cancer or a rate of 2.06.

There is a rise in the birth rate which is 7 above the average for the three previous years. The death rate has dropped and is nearly 4 below the average for that period. The infant mortality rate of 26.9 is also below the average for the three previous years viz: 74.25. The rate of death from infectious disease is also below the average for the three preceding years.

In the table below I give these rates compared with those of England and Wales.

	per 1000 living		per 1000 births	
	births	deaths	diarrhoea under 2 yrs	under one year
England & Wales	25.4	12.4	8.3	80
Esher & the Dittons	21.16	8.4	0	26.9



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29194702>

The following table shows the causes of deaths and sex distribution.

Cause of death	Males	Females
All causes	50	69
1 Enteric Fever		
2 Small pox		
3 Measles		
4 Scarlet Fever		
5 Whooping Cough		
6 Diphtheria and Croup	2	1
7 Influenza		1
8 Erysipelas		
9 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	7
10 Tuberculous meningitis		2
11 Other tuberculosis diseases	1	
12 Cancer, malignant disease	13	16
13 Rheumatic Fever		
14 Meningitis		
15 Heart Disease	7	5
16 Bronchitis	2	2
17 Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2
18 Other respiratory diseases		1
19 Diarrhoea &c under 2 yrs		
20 Appendicitis & Typhlitis		
21 Cirrhosis of liver	1	
21a Alcoholism		
22 Nephritis & Brights disease	3	1
23 Puerperal Fever		
24 Parturition, apart from puerperal fever		
25 Congenital debility &c		3
26 Violence, apart from suicide		1
27 Suicide		
28 Other defined diseases	15	27
29 Causes ill defined or unknown		
Deaths of infants under one year	3	5
Illegitimate	0	0
Total births	144	153
Legitimate	137	150
Illegitimate	7	3
Population	14030	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER. The water supply is almost entirely derived from the Metropolitan Water Boards mains. In a few cases where houses are too far from these mains water is obtained from wells. These have been inspected and are all in a satisfactory condition. In one case it was necessary to call on the owner to clean and purify a shallow well. On receipt of notice from the Water Board that the water supply of any house is being cut off, inspections are made and steps taken to ensure that such house is not being occupied without a proper supply being obtained.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. These include the river Mole and its tributary the Ember, both of which are now under the control of a special Board. These streams are now in much better condition, and have never been liable to serious pollution.

There is another small water course, the Rythe, which discharges into the Thames at Windows Bridge. The bed of this stream is liable to become dried during the summer months, and at times it is necessary to clean debris and dirt from it in order to prevent any nuisance,

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Practically all the houses are connected to the sewers. These convey the sewage to the sewage farm situated in the lower part of Esher, where it is treated by precipitation, and after filtration over the land the effluent is discharged into the Mole.

The water carriage system works well, and the system of sewers is ample for the district.

There are a few houses which owing to their distance from the sewers are supplied with earth closet or with cess-pools. These are in outlying parts and the cleansing of these means of disposal is usually well done by the occupiers of the house.

In most parts of the district the surface water is conveyed by separate drains to the various water-courses, and thence to the Thames. The Rythe receives the surface water from Claygate, Thames Ditton and a large part of Long Ditton.

SCAVEGING. House refuse is regularly collected by the Council's carts, and most of it is consumed in the destructor at the sewage farm. Only a small portion is taken to Claygate, where it is used as fuel in the process of burning bricks. Practically every house has a movable ashbin with a proper cover.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The systematic inspection of the district has been continued as in former years, and many minor defects have been remedied, which if left without attention would in time have given rise to nuisances, and become injurious to health. Details of this work are supplied in the following statement supplied to me by the Inspector of Nuisances.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ESHER AND THE DITTONS.

Council Offices
Thames Ditton.
February 1921.

To Dr. A. Senior,
Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

The following is an extract from the General Orders Clause 20 Section 16, dated the 13th, December 1910 relating to the duties of Inspectors of Nuisances:-

- (16) He shall, as soon as practicable after the Thirty-first day of December in each year, furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars:
- (a) the number and nature of inspections made by him during the year;
 - (b) the number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices;
 - (c) the result of the service of such notices.

The following is a list of the Statements set forth in the order indicated.

TOTAL OF INSPECTIONS YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1920.

Dwellings Public Health Act	693
" Re-inspected and work in progress	986
Dwellings under Housing Act	5
Re-inspections	19
Inspections and re-visits to premises under the Factory and Workshops Act	167
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	49
Inspections Meat and other Foods	60
Inspections Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	185
Schools	13
Houses let in Lodgings	12
Miscellaneous	36
Total	<u>2225</u>

DETAILS OF NOTICES SERVED.

In dealing with nuisances which are found to exist a preliminary notice is served upon the Owner or whoever is responsible, giving details of the works required to be done within a reasonable time.

If the notice is not complied with the matter is reported to the Public Health Committee and their authority obtained to serve a statutory notice.

The following is a summary of notices served during the year:-

Statutory Notices to provide premises with a sufficient dust bin. Sec. 36.	47
Statutory Notices to carry out cleaning, whitewashing and general house repairs. Sec. 94	40
Statutory Notices of intention to examine drains under Cer. 41 Public Health Act 1875.	3
Notices of intention to inspect houses and premises under the Housing, etc Acts.	1
Statutory Notices under Sec. 41 Public Health Act to relay drains	2

7.

Statutory Notices under Sec 36 Public Health
Act 1875 to provide premises with a
sufficient water closet

3

Total

96

General Preliminary Notices

104

Verbal Intimations

62

As a result of the above Inspections and Notices 282 houses
have benefitted by such works as the cleaning and re-decorating
of rooms, attention to drainage matters, repairs and renewals
of sanitary appliances, etc.

RESULT OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED.

Dwellings cleansed and redecorated throughout	10
Ditto partly (rooms dealt with as required)	219
Yards and side passages, paved, drained, etc.	5
Existing paving repaired	7
Soil drains examined and tested	13
Soil drains entirely or partly relaid	16
Soil drains repaired and otherwise improved	18
Blocked drains cleared	10
New surface drains to yards, etc.	12
Defective roofs repaired (number of houses)	86
Ditto eaves gutters (number of houses)	75
Rainwater pipes disconnected, trapped, etc.	9
Water closets cleansed and repaired	19
New W. C. pans	12
Flushing tanks put into proper working order	33
Scullery sinks, new and repaired	23
New sanitary dust bins	100
Windows enlarged, repaired, made to open, etc, (number of houses)	17
General house repairs (number of houses)	80
Damp proof courses (number of houses)	6
New scullery floors provided	5
Well cleaned out and purified	1
Foul accumulations removed	4
Animal nuisances abated	6
Premises disinfected	75
Complaints received and investigated	48
Water Company's Notices received and attended to (re supply withdrawn from houses)	8

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.

The district has always been free from any "offensive trades" hence it has not been necessary to issue any byelaws for their control. It has not been found necessary to adopt byelaws for the control of slaughter houses. There are no Common Lodging houses in the district, but byelaws are in force for the regulation of houses let in lodgings. Under these there are 16 houses registered which are kept under inspection. It has not been found necessary to take action under these byelaws, as the powers under the Public Health Acts, have been found ample for dealing with any insanitation which has been found.

SCHOOLS. All these have been inspected from time to time both by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, and have always been found in good sanitary condition.

The following is a summary of the work I have done in connection with schools in 1920.

Number of visits to schools for general purposes	9
" " special visits re infectious diseases	5
" " schools closed for " "	1
" " special visits to schools re contagious diseases	0
" " home visits re contagious diseases	0
" " children examined by request of S.A.O.	4
" " certificates given	0
" " reports on structural defects	0

MILK SUPPLY. A large quantity of the milk used is produced in the district and it is generally of very good quality and the means of distribution are adequate.

In the return of samples analysed during the year I note that 26 samples of milk were examined and two were found to be adulterated, and that there was one prosecution. No action had to be taken as to tuberculous milk as there has been no case found in which a tuberculous cow was being used for the purpose of obtaining milk.

The Cowsheds and Dairies have been under frequent inspection and an account of the various works that have been done for the improvement and cleansing of them will be found in the annexed report of the Sanitary Inspector. The various requirements of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders have been complied with.

All the milch cows have been inspected by the Council's veterinary inspector each quarter, and found to be in a healthy condition. The average number inspected and reported on was 339. The average number last year was 384.

The following is a list of the registered cowkeepers, and whose premises have been regularly inspected during the year.

LIST OF REGISTERED COWKEEPERS.

Mr. T.S. Cooper.	Lower Couchmore Farm, Thames Ditton.
Mr. S. H. Goodrich.	Upper Couchmore Farm, do.
Mr. B. Keen.	Manor Farm, do. do.
Miss Sarah Taylor.	St. Leonards Farm, do.
Messrs. C.F. Gorringe & Co.	Ember Lane Farm, do.
Mr. J. A. Keen.	Manor Road Farm, do.
Mrs. Powis Adams. (Business at present suspended)	Ember Court Road, do.
Mr. H. Wesley. (Business at present suspended).	Manor Road, do.
Mr. R. Cobb.	The Grove, Esher.
Capt. E. Seymour.	The Farm, Claremont, Esher.
Mr. E. A. Almond.	Copseham Farm, Esher.
Mr. S. Tingey.	Lower Green, Esher.
Mr. J.H.P. Roberts.	Pound Farm, Esher.
Mr. H. Broom.	Hill Farm, Ditton Hill, Long Ditton.
Mr. G. Scott.	Waffrons Farm, Long Ditton.
Mr. R. Brice.	Green Farm, Claygate.
Mr. H. Stent.	Slough Farm, Claygate.
Messrs. Blake & Sons. (Formerly Roberts).	Horrington Farm, Claygate.
Mr. C.H. Moon.	Vale Farm, Claygate.
Miss Sarah Taylor.	Beazley Farm, Claygate.
Mr. E. Skeffington.	Manor Farm, Claygate.

LIST OF REGISTERED MILKSELLERS.

Mr. E.G. Broad.	High Street, Thames Ditton.
Mr. E.G. Broad.	Weston Green, do.
Mr. E. Tekell.	1, Douglas Terrace, Thames Ditton.
Mrs. H. Lay.	The Stores, Lower Green, Esher.
Mr. A.B. Hunt.	High Street, Esher.
Mr. E.G. Broad.	High Street, Esher.
Messrs. Roberts & Sons.	High Street, Esher.
Mr. C. Moon.	Windows Bridge, Long Ditton.
Mr. J. P. Roberts.	1, Albany Crescent, Claygate.

Milk (Mothers and Children Order 1919)

No action was taken by the Council under this Order, as the work has been carried out under the scheme of the County Council for Maternity and Child welfare.

Meat -. The inspection of practically all the meat is carried out at the abattoirs in London where most is slaughtered. The slaughterhouses in the district are only used for killing such small animals as sheep and pigs.

No cases of diseased meat were discovered.

There are eight slaughterhouses in the district and these have all been inspected from time to time, and always found to be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

There is no public abattoir in the district, and so little slaughtering done that the amount of meat that is not inspected before sale is almost negligible.

No action has been taken under sec 117 of the Public Health Act 1875.

No carcases were condemned for tuberculosis.

	in 1914.	Jan. 1920.	Dec. 1920.
Registered	0	0	0
Licensed	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0

Other foods. All places where food is exposed for sale or under preparation for use have been inspected frequently and found to be kept in good condition.

The bakehouses have been regularly inspected and found to be well kept and the necessary cleansing required under the factories and Workshops Act was promptly carried out.

No cases of food poisoning in the district has been reported under the Ministry's Memorandum 39/Foods.

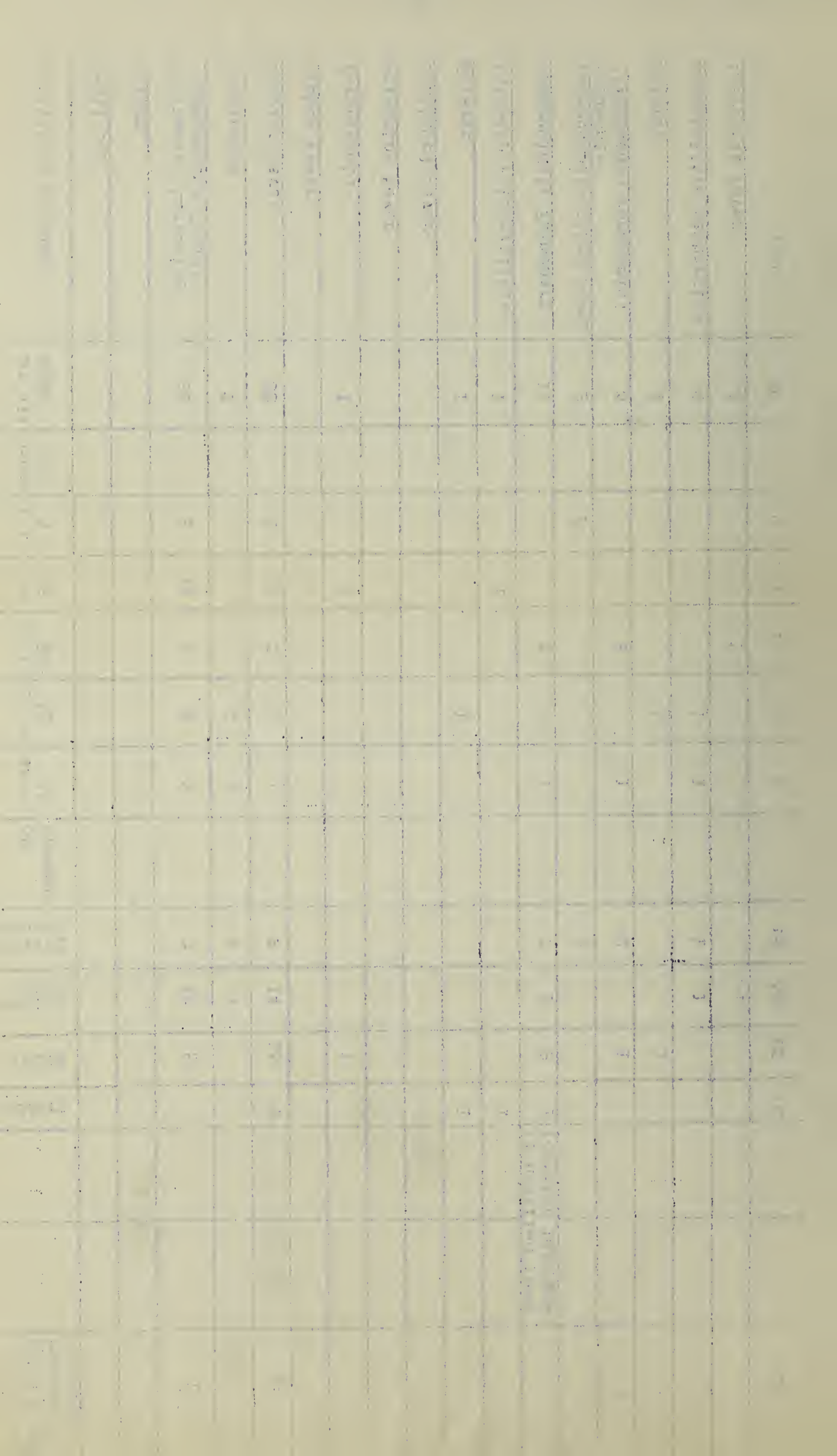
Sale of Food and Drugs Act. The following is a list of articles analysed, which has been sent to me for inclusion in the report.

Articles	Analysed	Adulterated or deteriorated	Prosecutions.
Milk	26	2	1
Other articles	4	4	3
details of other articles			
Raspberry cordial	1	1	1
Blackcurrant do.	3	3	2

PREVAIENGE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I submit two tables, one showing the number of notifications received each month, and the other the number of cases notified and classified into age periods and also from the various wards of the district, as well as the number of cases removed to hospital.

Notifiable Diseases	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 upwards	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Esher	Claygate	Total cases removed to Hosp.
Small Pox													
Colera													
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	25		2	18	1	3	1		7	13	5		17
Erysipelas	2					1	1		1	1			
Scarlet Fever	38		2	31	3	1	1		2	14	13	9	34
Typhus Fever													
Paratyphoid	1			1							1		
Relapsing Fever													
Continued Fever													
Malaria	1					1						1	
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1			1								1	
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	11				3	7	1		3	2	2	1 (3 notified from outside Districts)	
Tuberculosis other forms	2		2						2				
Pneumonia (Influenza Pneumonia)	3				2		1		2		1		1
Enteric	1					1					1		1
Encephalitis Lethargica	2					1	1		1	1			
Buerperal Fever	1				1					1			
Total	88		6	51	10	15	6		18	32	23	12	53



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the year was 88, a figure comparing well with that of the previous year which was 187.

There were 38 cases of scarlet fever, with an attack rate of 2.7 per 1000 in a population 14030. This is much lower than in 1919 when the figure was 4.5 per 1000. The largest number of cases were reported in the months of June, August and December. I was unable to trace any connection between the various cases, and the disease was mild in character and caused no mortality.

Twenty five cases of diphtheria was notified, giving an attack rate of 1.78 per 1000. This number is lower than in the previous year when it was 2.0 per 1000. The largest number of cases was in January. These were the final cases of an outbreak which began in the preceding November. It was seldom that any connection could be traced between the various patients, and in some it was only a suspicion that a carrier had been the cause. In several instances anti-toxin was supplied and administered before the patient was removed to hospital. The importance of immediate administration of antitoxin in even doubtful cases is I think hardly realized, and I am always ready to supply sufficient serum to deal with any urgent case. One case each of enteric and paratyphoid fevers were reported, and in neither was I able to trace the source of infection.

Two cases of encephalitis lethargica were notified, both in December. Both patients were adults, and have made good recoveries.

There were no instances of "return cases" of scarlet fever brought to light.

Three cases of Pneumonia and one of malaria were notified under the Order of Jan. 7th 1919.

The following is a list of examinations made for the purpose of bacteriological diagnosis in cases of diphtheria, tuberculosis and enteric fever.

	positive	negative.
Specimens examined for diphtheria.	21	39
Specimens examined for tubercle bacilli.	5	11
Specimens examined for typhoid		1

Several of those examined for diphtheria were cases of contacts or possible carriers, which in every instance proved negative.

I have performed no primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations under The Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

The following is a statement I have obtained from the Vaccination Officer of the Kingston Union which shows the figures as to primary vaccination in the district.

No. of Births Registered.		275.
No. vaccinated	182	
No. of exemptions	67	
No. died unvaccinated	6	
No. postponed by medical certificate	7	
No. gone	4	
Not yet of age to be accounted for	9	
	<hr/>	275.

The following is a list of cases of sickness (non-notifiable) which were reported from the schools:-

Thames Ditton	- Chicken pox 8, Ringworm 2, Whooping Cough 3, Impetigo 3,
Long Ditton	- Chicken pox 2, Whooping Cough 1.
Esher.	- Chicken pox 12.
Claygate	- Chicken pox 2.

One death only was registered as having been caused by Influenza, or a mortality of 0,07 per 1000. No special enquiries were made with respect to the epidemic, and the only action taken was the distribution of handbills throughout the district in the early part of the year.

With reference to the notification of tuberculous diseases I think that only about half of the cases are reported. Thirteen cases were notified and twelve deaths were registered as being due to tuberculosis, and if the average duration of a fatal case be as long as two years it is probably that only half the cases were notified.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are two Infant Welfare centres open in the district now. The one at Long Ditton meets weekly with a doctor appointed by the County Council attending each alternate session. I make a point of being at those meetings at which the doctor is not present, and see any cases about which there may be any difficulty. Also I give short addresses on simple hygiene to the mothers as often as possible. The centre at Claygate meets every fortnight, the County Council doctor attends once a month and I arrange to be present at the other meeting. Both centres are well attended, though that at Claygate is naturally not as large as at Long Ditton, as it has only been open for twelve months. Arrangements are made for the supply of Glaxo, Virol and Ovaltine at reduced prices. Information is given to the Health Visitor of every birth notified, and she visits each case that seems to be in need of supervision. A small book of "Advice to Mothers" is sent to each mother as soon as possible after the receipt of the notification of the birth.

Children from the schools are also seen at the centres and advice given as to treatment.

Very great help is obtained at both centres from committees of ladies, who attend most regularly, and whose interest and assistance is of the utmost value.

The following details have been supplied by the Health Visitor:-

LONG DITTON CENTRE.

No. of sessions	48
No. of children on books	244
Average of attendances per session.	33.
No. of expectant mothers on books	12.
Average No. of expectant mothers per session.	2.

CLAYGATE CENTRE.

No. of sessions.	24
No. of children on books.	51
Average No. of attendances per session	14
No. of expectant mothers on books.	0

Remarks :- The work at Long Ditton is very satisfactory and the attendance good. Claygate too is making progress even if slowly. The first year is always an anxious time, one can never be sure whether a centre will be popular amongst the mothers in a new district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The staff consists of one sanitary inspector who gives the whole of his time to the work in the district. He is assisted by a clerk who keeps the books and does other clerical work in the office.

Hospital accommodation is provided at Tolworth Isolation Hospital which is in the Surbiton district, and is about three miles from the centre of the district.

Of the 25 cases of diphtheria notified 17 were removed to hospital, and of the 38 cases of scarlet fever 34 were treated in hospital also. One case each of enteric fever and of Influenzal pneumonia were also treated there. Arrangements have been made for treating cases of small pox at the Surrey County Small Pox Hospital at Clandon. Cases of tuberculosis are usually sent to one of the sanatoria in Surrey.

In the absence of epidemics these arrangements generally have proved ample. The control of the hospital at Tolworth is in the hands of a Joint Hospital Board.

There are no local Acts which have to be administered, but the following adoptive Acts are in force.

Infectious diseases Prevention Act 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907
Parts II, III, IV, V, VI and certain
sections of Part X.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations are made by the Clinical Research Association. The following are the results of the work that has been done.

Specimens examined for	Positive	Negative
Diphtheria	21	39
Tuberculosis	5	11
Enteric fever.		1

One sample of water was also submitted for analysis.

HOUSING.

1. General housing conditions - These are good on the whole. There are many houses which are of modern construction and a large number of good class private dwellings. The cottage property also is fairly good, though there are a number of old cottages which need frequent attention to prevent their getting into an unfit state.

2. (a) There is a shortage of houses, as shown by the fact that there are lists of people waiting for houses at the offices of house agents.

(b) The Council are building houses in the Claygate ward and ultimately hope to put up about 90 in all.

Those under construction at Claygate are almost ready for occupation. There is also some private building in hand in various parts of the district.

3. There have not been any important changes in the population during the past year, and there is no indication of any likely to occur during the current one.

II. Overcrowding.

(1) Extent - It is difficult to estimate the extent of overcrowding, as the only available evidence is that in many cases married sons or daughters are living on in the parents house, owing to the impossibility of finding other accommodation. Also many instances are known where a house is occupied by more than one family.

(2) Causes. The probable cause is that during the last seven years practically no houses suitable for working people have been built.

(3) The overcrowding or perhaps more properly speaking congestion of houses is not such as to cause a nuisance and hence no special action is contemplated beyond the erection of those houses I have mentioned above.

(4) No cases of overcrowding were found that necessitated any other action than serving a preliminary notice asking for abatement.

III. Fitness of houses -

(I). (a) General standard of housing.

The cottage property on the whole is fairly modern and is in good condition. There are a few houses whose condition is not good and these require frequent inspection and often become the cause of preliminary notices. There are ample spaces in all parts of the district, and also most of the cottages have gardens in front and at the rear.

(b) General character of defects found to exist in

unfit houses

The defects most commonly found are those which arise from dampness of walls and floors due either to defective roofs or the absence of damp proof courses in the walls or defective eaves guttering and down pipes.

Neglect to do necessary repairs is the chief cause of other defects, which are defective flooring, broken windows and sash lines.

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners.

There are certainly a considerable number of defects which are entirely due to want of supervision and management by owners. In fact by excluding defects in construction and damage done by careless tenants I might almost say that the majority of defects would not be found if owners properly supervised and repaired their houses.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under -

(a) the Public Health Acts;

Little difficulty is experienced in getting all the defects remedied by putting in force powers under the Public Health Acts. And in no case has it been necessary to take any legal proceedings beyond the service of Statutory Notices.

(b) The Housing Acts, our representation was made under Sec. 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Act 1909 - and one closing order was made arising out of this.

(3) The commonest difficulty that arises in connection with unfit houses is due to the fact that as soon as an owner receives a notice to do work to render the property fit, he asks that a closing order may be made totally

disregarding the fact that only repairs are necessary.

Another difficulty is that it is practically impossible to make a closing order effective owing to there being no houses for the displaced tenant to move into.

(4) Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal are those which arise when two families are living in a house which has been designed for only one. In these cases it is possible by frequent inspection to keep the houses in a fairly sanitary state.

IV. Unhealthy Areas. None.

V. Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings and to tents, vans, sheds &c.-

The only byelaws which come under this heading are those relating to houses let in lodgings. These work well, and there does not seem to be any need for new byelaws or for revision of existing ones.

VI. There has not been any action bearing on the public health, not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken by the Council in connection with overcrowding insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts and the Public Health Acts.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics.

Year ended 31st December 1920.

1.--GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	-	-	-	-	-	-	14030.
(2) General death-rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.4
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.63
(4) Infantile mortality	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.9
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	-	-	-	-	-	-	3109.
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1500.
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil.

2.--UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

1.--INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	-	-	-	-	-	693.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil.

II.--REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	-	-	-	-	-	-	282.
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	------

III.--ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit --							
(a) by owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied - - - - -	96.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied --	
(a) by owners - - - - -	280.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners - - - - -	2

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders - - - - -	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made - - - - -	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit - -- --	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - - - -	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - - - - -	Nil.

3.--UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890:--

(1) Name of area - - - - -	
(2) Acreage - - - - -	Nil.
(3) Number of working-class houses in area- -	
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced	

4.-Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 - - - - - Nil.

5.-Staff engaged on housing work with. briefly. the duties of each officer - - - - - 1

The sanitary inspector, who devotes part of his time, concurrently with his other duties. He receives help from the Surveyors department for testing drains. The actual inspections have been made by myself, re-inspections and preliminary inspections by the sanitary inspector.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

I submit a table showing the number and description of premises on the Register.

The items notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories are also set out.

I also give a list of the notices which have been served and the results obtained from them.

DETAILS OF WORK DONE UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST. DECEMBER 1920.

No. and description of premises on the Register :-

Factories	5
Factory Bakehouses	1
Retail Bakehouses	7
Motor Garages and Cycle Repairers.	13
Workshops (Miscellaneous)	22
Workplaces (Other than Workshops)	20
Factory Laundry	1
Workshop Laundries.	6
Cottage Laundries.	25
Bootmakers and Repairers.	9
Dressmakers, Tailors, etc.	18

Total	127

No of Inspections and re-visits made during the year 167

ITEMS NOTIFIED BY H. M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.

- (1) Notices of occupation 2
- (2) Apparently only one W.C. for about 40 workers.
- (3) Only one closet for both sexes
- (4) No ventilation between Lavatories and Workshops.

In each of the above cases the premises were inspected and the matter dealt with.

OUTWORKERS.

Three outworkers were notified to the Public Health Department by other Local Authorities during the year.

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Statutory Notices	nil
Informal written notices	1
Verbal Intimations	13

RESULT OF NOTICES AND INTIMATIONS.

Workshops cleansed, limewashed, etc.	9
Lavatories cleansed, repaired, etc.	3
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	2

In the preceding pages I have tried to give a full and accurate account of the sanitary circumstances of the district and the condition of the health of its inhabitants. I think on the whole it may be regarded as highly satisfactory. The chief points are the much higher birth rate and the lowness of the death rate, and the Infant Mortality rate.

The amount of preventible disease is below the average and will I trust continue to be so.

In closing this report I have much pleasure in tendering my thanks for the great assistance I have always received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and from my colleagues in office.

I have, Gentlemen,

the honour to be,

Your obedient servant

A. Senior, M.B. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,

Thames Ditton.

January, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Esher and The Dittons.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Seventeenth Annual Report giving details of the various inspections carried out, notices served, nuisances abated and improvements effected during the year ending December 31st, 1920.

The work of carrying out inspections in all parts of the District has been continuous throughout the year, in conformity with the requirements of the Public Health Acts, Dairy and Cowshed Orders, The Factory and Workshops Act, Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, various Foods, etc, and for the enforcement where necessary of various other Regulations and Bye-Laws in force.

Many of the details given in this Report represent routine work, and are a repetition of those contained in my monthly Reports to the Council. The Report, however, taken collectively forms a comprehensive total of the amount of work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year under review.

The total number of inspections, re-visits, etc, made amounted to 2,225 of which full details are given elsewhere in the Report.

All nuisances and defects discovered or brought to my notice have been methodically recorded as required and not allowed to be lost sight of until suitable remedies have been adopted by the persons responsible.

The Schedule at the end of the Report indicates the large and varied number of works and sanitary improvements which have received attention.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED RELATING TO
NUISANCES.

The number of complaints received during the year relating to nuisances amounted to 48 as follows :-

Offensive smells	9
Defective house drainage, stoppages, etc.	9
Nuisances caused by Animals.	7
Damp conditions.	2
Absence of dust bins	6
Miscellaneous	15

Total	48

Each complaint was investigated upon receipt of the same and a suitable remedy adopted for the abatement of whatever nuisance was found to exist.

The details, including date, nature of complaint, date of inspection and action taken with regard to each case, have been placed upon record in books kept for the purpose.

COLLECTION OF ASHES AND HOUSEHOLD
REFUSE.

The collection of household refuse is carried out weekly by the Council's workmen. The few complaints received respecting non collection were promptly investigated and dealt with.

Removable sanitary dust bins with covers are in general use throughout the District.

During the year 100 portable sanitary dust bins have been provided to replace those worn out or missing.

Of these 53 were the result of preliminary notices, 47 by statutory notices. Two of the latter were supplied by the Council in default of the Owner, the cost being afterward recovered.

PUBLIC MORTUARY, MANOR ROAD,
THAMES DITTON.

During the year there have been four bodies deposited in the Mortuary for the purpose of post-mortem and inquest.

The building has at all times been maintained in an efficient condition for the purpose intended.

PRIVATE HOUSE DRAINAGE.

The work of opening up, examining and testing has been carried out as occasion required, and during the year the drains belonging to 13 houses were examined and tested in accordance with the provision of the Public Health Acts.

The smoke test is generally applied but in all cases where it appears necessary opening up of the ground is resorted to and pipes are exposed at various points of the drains.

The number of soil drains entirely or partly relaid were as follows:-

Herne Cottage, Ditton Hill.	Entirely Relaid	1
The Dairy, Windows Bridge	"	1
1 & 2, Rose Cottages, Thames Ditton	"	2
Arbrook, Esher.	"	1
1 to 4, Jubilee Cottages, Lower Green	"	4
School Room, Park Road, Esher, New Drainage.		1
The Lodge, Riversdale, Thames Ditton.	"	
Cesspool abolished and new drainage laid.		1
Royal Mills, Esher.	Drain Extension.	1
Wheatsheaf, Esher.	"	1
The Bungalow, West End, Esher.	"	1
Sandgate, Esher.	Drains Partly relaid	1
4, Kings Road, Long Ditton.	"	1

Total 16.

The number of cases in which various drain repairs were carried out amounted to 18

The number of blocked drains cleared during the year amounted to 10

Cesspools abolished and filled in 2

New surface drains provided 12

YARD PAVING

It has not been possible to make much progress in getting works of paving carried out and no special efforts have been made in this direction. There are not however, many of the smaller properties without a sufficiency of impervious paving around or near the back door and domestic offices as about 600 yards, etc, have been provided with paving during recent years.

Five yards have been provided with paving and surface drainage as follows :-

Herne Cottage, Herne Road, Ditton Hill 1

2, Meadow View, Vale Road, Claygate 1

1, Park View, Alexandra Road, Thames Ditton. 1

1 & 2, Rose Cottages, Thames Ditton. 2

In addition existing paving has been repaired and made good in 7 cases.

THE DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS REGULATIONS.

The register required to be kept under these Orders has been revised and brought up to date. It contains at the present time the names of 30 persons resident in the District who are engaged in the Public Milk Supply, classified as follows:-

Farmers who keep cows on their premises 19

Milkshops, Dairy Produce, etc. 7

General shops where milk is sold 2

Farms at which business is at present suspended 2

Total 30

The premises have been regularly inspected, the total number of visits during the year amounting to 185. The general requirements of the Orders relating to cleanliness, periodical lime-washing, etc, have as a result of inspections made and verbal intimations given to the occupiers received the necessary attention at the appointed times.

During the year 2 of the Farms have changed Owners and one new occupier has been added to the Register.

At two of the farms alterations and repairs have received attention.

A new Dairy and Milk Store has been erected at The Parade, Claygate.

INSPECTIONS OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES,
MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

109 inspections of Slaughterhouses and other places where meat and various foods are prepared, stored or exposed for sale, have been made during the year.

Nothing liable to seizure as being unsound or unfit for human food within the meaning of the Public Health Acts was discovered during the inspections.

There are eight slaughterhouses in the District, situated as follows:-

Thames Ditton	1
Long Ditton	1
Esher	4
Claygate	2

These premises have been but very little used, the slaughtering done being confined chiefly to the smaller animals, such as sheep and pigs.

The buildings have been cleansed and limewashed as often as necessary.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are eight Bakehouses in the District situated as follows:-

Long Ditton	1
Thames Ditton	3
Esher	2
Claygate	2

The buildings have been regularly inspected and the requirements of the Factory Act relating to cleansing, limewashing, etc, have in all cases been duly complied with.

The Bakehouse at Long Ditton is designated as a Factory Bakehouse by reason of the use of mechanical power.

The remainder are known as retail Bakehouses the work being carried out by hand labour.

There are no underground Bakehouses in the District.

The total number of inspections amounted to 39.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The lavatories and sanitary appliances in connection with these schools have been frequently inspected. The necessary attention has at all times been given by those responsible to the work of cleaning, limewashing and the keeping of the sanitary appliances in a proper condition of cleanliness.

WATER BOARD NOTICES.

Eight notices have been received from the Metropolitan Water Board, stating that the water supply had been withdrawn from houses or premises for various reasons.

Each notice was investigated and in cases where necessary steps were taken to ensure that no house remained occupied without a proper and sufficient water supply.

DISINFECTIONS.

During the year, rooms, bedding and clothing, etc. at 76 premises where infectious diseases occurred were disinfected in accordance with the directions of your Medical Officer of Health, the work being carried out either after the recovery of infected patients who were nursed in their own homes, or immediately after the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital or a Sanatorium, and in some cases after the death of the patients.

The disinfections were carried out in connection with the following cases:-

After Scarlet Fever	32
Do Diphtheria	23
Do Cancer	3
Do Tuberculosis	7
Do Miscellaneous	<u>11</u>
Total	<u>76</u>

SCHEDULE SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS
MADE AND NOTICES SERVED.

under the Public Health Acts, Factory and Workshops Act, Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations and other Statutes and Bye-Laws in force, together with the number of nuisances abated and sanitary improvements carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1920

Number of dwellings inspected under the Public Health Acts	693
Re-inspections to works in progress, etc	986
Number of dwellings inspected under the Housing, etc, Act	5
Re-inspections to works in progress, etc	19
Inspections and re-visits under the Factory and Workshops Act	167
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	49
Inspectionsof Meat and other Foods	60
Ditto Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	185
Miscellaneous	61
Statutory Notices Served	96
Informal Notices written	104
Verbal Intimations	62

Dwellings cleansed and redecorated throughout	10
Ditto partly (rooms redealt with as required)	219
Yards and side passages, paved, drained, etc.	5
Existing paving repaired	7
Soil drains examined and tested	13
Soil drains entirely or partly relaid	16
Soil drains repaired and otherwise improved	13
Blocked drains cleared	10
New surface drains to yards, etc.	12
Defective roofs repaired (number of houses)	36
Ditto eaves gutters (numbers of Houses)	75
Rainwater pipes disconnected, trapped, etc.	9
Water closets cleansed and repaired	19
New W.C. pans.	12
Flushing tanks put into proper working order	33
Scullery sinks, new and repaired	23
New sanitary dust bins	100
Windows enlarged, repaired, made to open, etc. (Number of houses)	17
General house repairs (number of houses)	80
Damp proof courses (number of houses)	6
New scullery floors provided	5
Well cleaned out and purified	1
Foul accumulations removed	4
Animal nuisances abated.	6
Premises disinfected	76
Complaints received and investigated	48
Water Company's Notices received and attended to (re supply withdrawn from houses)	8

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation of the support given me by the Council and Public Health Committee in my efforts to improve the sanitary condition of the District.

My thanks are also due to the Medical Officer and fellow Officers for their courtesy and valuable assistance throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

GEORGE COMPLIN OVER,

Asso. R. Sa. Inst.

Cert. M. I.

Sanitary Inspector.

